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# THE Baptist Record

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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

## BRIEFS

### NO EVENING SESSIONS IN 2019, GREAR SAYS

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president J.D. Greear announced via Twitter that next year's SBC annual meeting in Birmingham will not include evening sessions. His tweet also signaled his decision to utilize the social media hashtag #sbc19 for the 2019 annual meeting. The overall increase in digital technology use at the annual meeting in Dallas earlier this summer corresponded with a decrease in average age of messengers. As Baptist Press reported previously, 25.2% of 2018 SBC messengers were between the ages of 18 and 39, up from 20% on average in preceding years.

### 'UNBROKEN' FILM GETS HIGHEST CINEMASCOPE

NASHVILLE (BP) — Opening weekend audiences for the movie, *Unbroken: Path to Redemption*, rated the movie an A in Cinemascope polling (cinemascope.com), the highest among new releases on more than 1,500 theater screens. Billed as the next chapter of the 2014 box office success titled, *Unbroken*, the Pure Flix film revolves around World War II prisoner of war Louis Zamperini's personal struggles after returning home and his acceptance of Jesus Christ as his savior at a 1949 Billy Graham crusade in Los Angeles.

### E-CIGARETTES POSING THREAT TO CHILDREN

WASHINGTON (BP) — Use of nicotine-rich electronic cigarettes, commonly clothed in bright pastel colors with perky flavors, has reached epidemic levels among children, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has warned. A Sept. 12 news release announced the federal agency issued warning letters and fines to more than 1,300 retailers "who illegally sold JUUL and other e-cigarette products to minors," in a nationwide, undercover investigation this summer of brick-and-mortar stores. JUUL is a brand of e-cigarette that utilizes nicotine salts from leaf-based tobacco as its key ingredient.



**MISSION: FEED THE HUNGRY** — Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force volunteers prepare to cook thousands of meals from the parking lot of Mt. Olive Church in Bolivia, N.C., for victims of Hurricane Florence. Feeding teams made up of Mississippi Baptists are expected to be in the affected area for about a month. (Photo by Ruth Ann Kohnke/Harry Floate)

## Mississippi Baptists in N.C.

### Mass feeding unit, mud-out, chainsaw/debris removal teams on hurricane scene

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Volunteers from the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force are in Bolivia, N.C., cooking thousands of meals per

day for victims of Hurricane Florence from the Task Force's fully self-contained, eighteen-wheeler mass feeding unit parked at Mt. Olive Church.

"Twenty-two Mississippi Baptists are staffing the unit,

and we're up to a meal count of 6,000 per day. That's the number of meals being requested right now," reported Shane McGivney, director of men's ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and coordinator of the Task Force.

Bolivia is located in far southeastern North Carolina, about 18 miles from Wilmington. It is the county seat of Brunswick County.

see N.C. on p. 6

## Meador to step in again as IMB head

RICHMOND, Va. (BP and local reports) — Clyde Meador has been recommended to serve as interim president of the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va., after current president David Platt said he has finalized his previously announced plans for returning to the pastorate and will resign at the IMB trustee meeting on Sept. 27.

IMB trustees' executive committee voted in a special meeting Sept. 13 to recommend Meador as interim president, subject to full board approval at their Sept. 27 meeting.

After a year and a half in retirement from IMB, Meador returned to his current role as executive adviser to the president in January

see MEADOR on p. 6



MEADOR



PLATT

## Bullet shatters LifeWay's new building

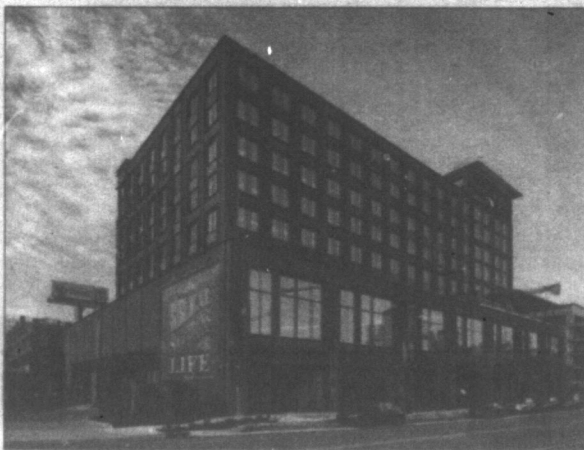
NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) — No injuries were sustained when a single bullet destroyed a fifth-floor window shortly before 11:45 a.m. on Sept. 20 at the new downtown Nashville complex of LifeWay Christian Resources, a spokesperson reported to Baptist Press.

"We're just really thankful no one was hurt," said Carol Pipes, LifeWay director of corporate communications, who added that police are investigating the incident.

The shattered window was nearly level to nearby Interstates 40 and 65, but the police investigation has not yet concluded where the shot originated.

LifeWay President Thom Rainer on Sept. 21 praised

see LIFEWAY on p. 7



LifeWay Christian Resources' new downtown Nashville complex

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### The Universe

**C**osmology, or the scientific study of the how the Universe formed and functions, is truly a fascinating field. Like any scientific endeavor, cosmology is not tied to Creation as explained in the Bible but rather to a compendium of secular "facts" that make sense to scientists. Such is the case with the study of the Universe.

The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (yes, I know) headquartered at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena recently announced that their advanced equipment has detected the collision of two massive black holes way out in the Universe, resulting in a blended black hole that is 49 times the mass of our sun. The merging was so violent that scientists think it ripped the fabric of space-time because of the gravitational waves that ensued.

Black holes, thought to be at the center of each galaxy in the Universe, are mysterious drain-like formations that suck in everything around it, including light. No known aspect of the Universe can escape its grip. Nothing is known about where all that matter goes or what the black side of a black hole looks like.

As one description put it, the merger of those two giant black holes created "a gigantic space monster so huge it could swallow up our entire planet and then snack on the rest of the solar system." Thank goodness it happened three billion years ago, according to scientists.

How do they know that? Well, it took three billion years for the light from the high-energy collision to travel to us at 186,000 miles per second, they tell us. In the mathematics of space-time, that number is also the event's distance from earth.

To top it off, scientists know that such black hole super-collisions aren't that rare. They have reported several such time-space ripping events over the past several years as detection equipment and our understanding of such events has advanced.

In another, equally spellbinding discovery, other scientists are

beginning to believe our Universe may potentially be one of an infinite number of parallel universes — a Multiverse. Got that?

According to news reports, these scientists have detected a "cold" area of the Universe where virtually nothing is going on. No star formation (another amazing story), no huge galaxies or constellations, nothing. Utilizing available information gleaned from the study of the cold area, some scientists believe it could be evidence of "the remnant of a collision between our universe and another 'bubble' universe during an early inflationary phase."

Those scientists explain that the cold area could be a place when two of the parallel universes bumped into each other, creating a gash from one to the other where stellar activity was destroyed.

What does that have to do with us? Quantum mechanics theories about parallel universes include the concept that exactly the same events and actions occur in parallel universes at exactly the same times, meaning we have counterparts in each of an infinite number of parallel universes that are doing the same things we are doing at the same times.

Although these two ideas/proposals have been the plots for an untold number of science fiction books and movies over the years, it's still mind-blowing to contemplate how much of God's Creation we don't — and never will be able to — understand. Could these two ideas/proposals be true? No one knows, and most likely no one will ever be able to prove them.

Feeling pretty small about now? I am. When I contemplate the heavens and realize how insignificant I am in the Creation that God spoke into existence, I am humbled beyond measure. When I contemplate how much God loves me, small as I am, when He has so many other things to tend to, I am grateful beyond measure that He felt compelled to sacrifice His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, for me. For me.

I don't understand everything, but I understand that.

## Make Room

**I**t was the early 1970s at a park on the north side of Flint, Mi., when a guy with long hair and tattered jeans approached me and asked in a simple, straightforward tone, "Do you know Jesus, man?"

That stranger, I realize now, came out of the Jesus Movement, an evangelical phenomenon during the late 1960s and early '70s throughout North America, Europe, and Central America.

Tens of thousands were baptized during spontaneous celebrations. Spiritual discussions took place in houses and in parks. Witnessing was done on the streets by word of mouth.

However, that unusual movement may not have reached its full potential due to the fears of those within the established churches and Christian institutions. As I look back over my last 40 years, I recall those from the Jesus Movement who overcame widespread resistance.

Michigan Baptists' executive director-treasurer Tim Patterson can testify that his salvation came out of the Jesus Movement during the '70s in Texas. He went from being a local bad boy to an evangelist. Because local churches refused to make room for the young people coming to Christ, Patterson's congregation met in a park and numbered 300 people.

Today, the results of the Jesus Movement may be difficult to identify but the God-inspired movement I see happening among this new adult generation born during the years 1981-2001 is easy to recognize. God is up to something with Millennials.

I see determined young adults pursuing greater callings in life. Adults in new church plants put their careers on hold while serving tireless hours as volunteers. Some are leveraging their professional training to benefit a local new church. University graduates are dedicating two to three years as servant-leaders in a university church plant before starting their secular careers full-throttle.

This new adult generation does not separate life into secular and sacred categories. They believe being authentic requires people to be the same at work, home, and church, 24/7. Young adults are more serious about a meaningful purpose than most give them credit for.

As I compare the barriers set before those who came out of the Jesus Movement to the obstacles in front of today's believing



### Guest opinion with Tony Lynn

Millennials, I see a reluctance of many to involve young adults in ministry. If we want to see a movement of God unleashed on our world, there are several things we must do to empower Millennials in our churches and Christian institutions:

■ Anticipate that God will release His Holy Spirit upon a particular generation to do amazing things when He desires, and let's pray we see it in this decade.

■ Place more confidence in the solid evidence that believing Millennials are driven to do something meaningful even though they are young, so that godly devotion is not hindered by age.

■ Stop assigning mundane, simple, assisting roles to young adults and instead authorize them to be creative leaders who initiate fresh approaches to ministry.

■ Release our white-knuckle hold on the traditions in our churches, institutions, and calendars and instead hold these young adults up in prayer as we empower them to speak up, serve, and steer us into the future.

■ Fall in love with what the future brings under God's sovereignty, rather than allow the fear of the unfamiliar or the loss of control to cause us to take back into our hands what God is entrusting to this new adult generation.

Every day of my life, I see a new believing generation who are setting "an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12, CSB). I say let's participate in what God is doing so that we do not hinder His movement.

Lynn is state director of missions for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. This column first appeared in the convention's Baptist Beacon news journal, and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style and length.

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# LifeWay Research: Abuse responses need work

NASHVILLE, Tn. (Special and local reports) — While the Roman Catholic Church's continuing sexual abuse scandal has dominated the headlines, Protestant churches have also seen high profile pastors accused of similar misconduct. More accusations are likely to come from congregations big and small.

Those are the conclusions of LifeWay Research, the Nashville-based evangelical research arm of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention that specializes in surveys about faith in culture and matters that affect churches.

According to LifeWay Research, one in eight Protestant senior pastors say a church staff member has sexually harassed a member of the congregation at some point in the church's history. One in six pastors say a staff member has been harassed in a church setting.

Two-thirds of pastors say domestic or sexual violence occurs in the lives of people in their congregation. Many pastors believe the #MeToo movement has made their churches more aware of how common are sexual and domestic violence.

More pastors say they are addressing these issues from the pulpit. Still, half say they lack training in how to address sexual and domestic violence.

Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research, says the #MeToo movement and more public discussion of sexual and domestic violence seem to have gotten pastors' attention.

"Pastors are starting to talk about issues like sexual harassment and domestic abuse more than in the past," McConnell said. "They don't always know how to respond but fewer see them as taboo subjects."

For the study, LifeWay Research conducted a phone survey of 1,000 Protestant senior pastors earlier this year—then compared the results to a similar survey in 2014.

## #MeToo, #ChurchToo

Researchers also asked additional questions specifically about the #MeToo and #ChurchToo movements.

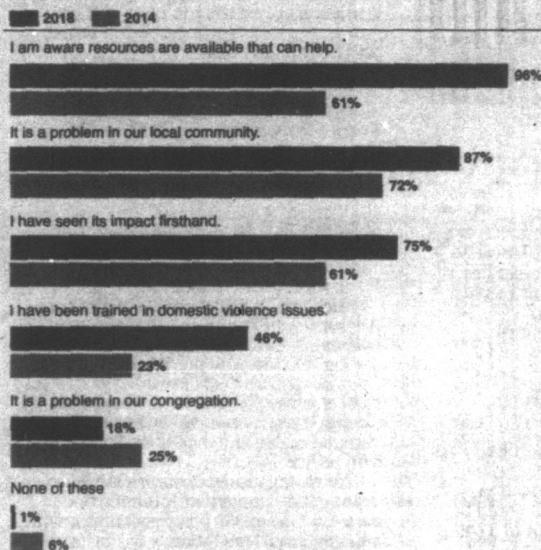
Eighty-five percent of pastors in the survey say they have heard of the #MeToo movement. Fewer pastors (16%) have heard of the #ChurchToo movement, which focused specifically on sexual harassment and abuse in the church. Eighty-four percent have not heard of #ChurchToo.

Three-quarters of pastors say they know someone who has been sexually harassed. Mainline pastors (82%) are more likely to say they know someone who has been harassed than evangelical pastors (71%).

Twelve percent of Protestant pastors say someone on church staff has sexually harassed a con-

## Reasons why you speak about domestic or sexual violence in your church

Among Protestant pastors who speak about domestic or sexual violence at least once a year or more.



Notes: Don't know 2018: 1%, 2014: 11%. Respondents could select all that applied.

gregation member at some point in the church's life. Eighty-five percent say no staff member has been found to have done so. Three percent don't know.

Pentecostal (94%) and Baptist (89%) pastors are more likely to say there has been no harassment found. Christian/Church of Christ (79%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (79%) pastors are less likely.

Sixteen percent say a staff member has experienced sexual harassment in a church setting. Eighty-two percent say that has not happened. Two percent don't know. Mainline pastors (22%) are more likely to say a staff member has been harassed than evangelical pastors (11%).

Eighty percent of pastors say their church has a policy for sexual harassment allegations against staff. Nineteen percent say they don't have a policy. Two percent don't know.

A few pastors have firsthand knowledge of abuse. One in five pastors say they personally have experienced domestic or sexual violence. Four out of five say they have not.

## Action, Confusion

The #MeToo movement has prompted some pastors to action. It also appears to have led to some confusion among pastors and their congregations.

Forty-one percent of Protestant senior pastors who have heard of #MeToo say they are more inclined to preach about sexual and domestic violence in

response to the movement. Forty-eight percent say they are inclined to speak about the issues about the same amount as they had in the past.

Twelve percent say they are less inclined to speak as a result of #MeToo.

Methodist (57%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (52%) pastors are more likely to say they will preach more about sexual and domestic violence. Fewer Lutheran (37%), Church of Christ/Christian (36%), Baptist (30%) and Pentecostal (24%) pastors say they are now more inclined to preach on those topics.

Forty percent of those who have heard of #MeToo say they understand issues of sexual and domestic violence better because of the movement. Twenty-one percent say their understanding of the issues has more changed. Thirty-nine percent say they now have more questions.

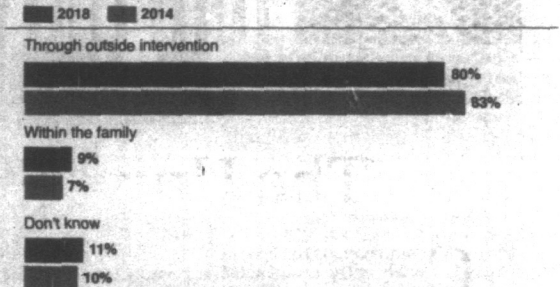
Congregation members also have questions, according to pastors. A third of pastors (32%) who have heard of #MeToo say their congregation is more confused about sexual and domestic violence. Sixty-two percent say their congregation has more empathy for victims. Fifty-eight percent say their congregation is more aware of how common are sexual and domestic violence.

A few (14%) say their congregation has become callous toward the issue. Among other findings about pastors who have heard of #MeToo:

■ 49% of mainline pastors are inclined to preach more about do-

## How should domestic or sexual violence that occurs in a home primarily be resolved?

Among Protestant pastors.



mestic and sexual violence. 32% of evangelical pastors are inclined to preach more about domestic and sexual violence.

■ 48% of mainline pastors say they understand more.

■ 32% of evangelical pastors say they understand more.

■ 70% of mainline pastors say their churches have become more empathetic.

■ 57% of evangelical pastors say their churches have become more empathetic.

■ 44% of Christian/Church of Christ ministers say their churches have more confusion.

■ 27% of Methodist pastors say their churches have more confusion.

■ 18% of Baptist pastors say their churches are callous.

■ 10% of Presbyterian/Reformed pastors say their churches are callous.

## Less taboo

For the study, LifeWay Research asked Protestant pastors a series of detailed questions about how they handle the topics of sexual and domestic abuse.

Three-quarters say they speak about domestic violence at least once a year. That includes 26% who speak about it once a year and 51% who speak about it more than once a year. By contrast, only 34% of Protestant senior pastors spoke about domestic violence more than once a year in a similar study in 2014.

Seventy-five percent of pastors who address sexual or domestic violence at least once a year or more say they do so because they have seen the impact of such violence firsthand. Eighty-seven percent say sexual or domestic violence is an issue in their community. Ninety-six percent know of resources to help victims.

Eighteen percent say they address domestic or sexual violence because it is an issue in their congregation. Forty-six percent speak about it because they have been trained in domestic violence issues.

Forty-six percent of pastors who don't address sexual or domestic violence say it is not an issue in their congregation. Twenty-nine percent say other topics are more important.

Nineteen percent say they don't know the issue well enough. Nineteen percent also say it is not an issue in their community. Sixteen percent say it is not appropriate to address domestic or sexual violence publicly.

"Despite the widespread public conversation, one in five pastors don't feel compelled to address domestic or sexual violence," McConnell said.

## Action steps

LifeWay Research found that pastors often take action when they learn about cases of domestic and sexual violence.

Pastors believe victims need help from outside of their families when abuse occurs in the home. Eighty percent say in cases of domestic or sexual violence that occur in the home, including physical violence, child abuse, or marital rape, outside intervention is needed.

Nine percent say such violence should be resolved primarily within the family. Eleven percent don't know.

In cases of domestic violence, 82% of Protestant senior pastors say they would counsel a victim to seek support from a domestic abuse expert. Eight percent say they would tell a victim to try and improve the relationship with their spouse.

Ten percent don't know what they would counsel a victim to do.

Sixty-four percent of pastors agree that sexual or domestic violence occurs in the lives of people in their congregation, including 24% who strongly agree. Thirty percent disagree, including 13% who strongly disagree.

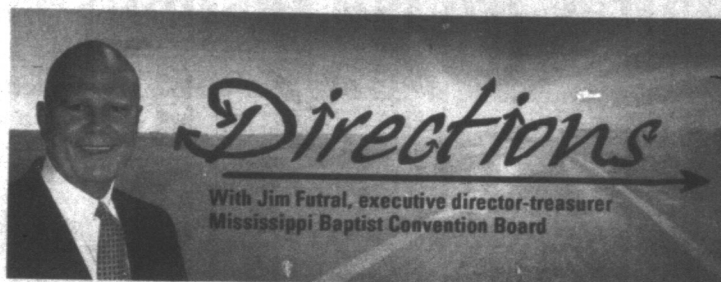
Sixty-two percent say their church has taken action against domestic or sexual abuse at least once a year.

One of the wonderful things God has provided for us is memory. I am well aware of the fact that it can be detrimental as you remember things that were hurtful, painful, and over time scarring to your life. On the other hand, there are a lot of wonderful things that God gives us by giving us a memory. It seems as though — and it's mostly just observation — God gives some people far better memory than He does others. It seems also certain that the older you get, the less memory you have. I've heard folks say their memory is what they use to forget with, and others have made the observation that it's strange how their forgetter works a lot better than their rememberer.

For me, I notice very little I don't remember, or at least that's what I thought, but the more I pondered that the more I realized I wouldn't remember if I didn't remember. Strange, isn't it? The Bible has so much to say about remembering. In fact, over 120 times in the Old Testament God says to remember. When you get to the New Testament, over 25 times the Bible says to remember. All through the wonderful book of God, He reminds us to remember.

What is happening in us as we grow older that we begin to have memory non-moments? I used to think about things and could remember them, but now they are not so sharp in my mental vision and sometimes the memory moments just become non-moments because we can't pull it up. Why these lapses in our brain structure?

One, I think, is the sheer volume of stuff we have to remember. As you go through life, the amount never gets less; it just gets exponentially bigger. For instance, just take your family. In my family, my wife and I had three children. As they got grown and chose a mate, the three quickly became six children-related beings. After some time, there were eight grandkids that came along; so the three became six, then fourteen, and then all of their friends, acquaintances, and



## Memory Moments Non-Moments

experiences that they were involved in and family stuff... You begin to see the volume of information you've got to recall and keep in order becomes huge.

The same is true at work. For me, when I began as a pastor 55 years ago, I was expected to (or expected of myself, at least) to know every member and every prospect and every community leader and on and on. After all these years and having the privilege of being in so many of our 2,100 churches across Mississippi, you begin to see that the number of people and their experiences and their connection to you and where they are from and where they are going comes to be a pretty good sized load of information. That's just a couple of areas of life. The longer you live, more and more and more comes to be a part of your brain structure. You may worry about not being able to remember, but my goodness, you've got so much to remember that you wonder if it's even possible.

**Another reason for the lapses is not only because of volume, but because of vacancies.** I'm certainly not a neurologist or someone who understands all about the cranial corpuscles that make up our brain, but like other parts of our bodies cells die

off and change. You may even end up with less than you started with. I had read that the cells in our bodies replace themselves, all of them, over a seven-year period. If that be true, it just well may be some of your new brain cells don't know as much as your old brain cells and there are some vacancies in your remembering. It is amazing to think about the fact that if our brain cells all do change, how in the world do they remember things that happened 50 years ago? Even with the vacancies, we can function pretty good.

**A third thought about why the lapses come has to do with things that vanish.** Just vanishing stuff. The other day my wife and I were driving down the road and she said shockingly, "That building's gone!" A building that we had passed by thousands of times, were in and around pretty often because it's near our home, was just gone. There was just a flat piece of dirt where it was. It made me think that there are things we have in our lives that just vanish, go out of existence. We wonder why we can't remember it. Well, it's not there is why we can't.

God wants us to remember and it helps if we can remember, so what do we do about it? Let me give you three

quick helps. *The first help would be to pay attention.* You may recall that back in elementary school grades one, two, and three — maybe even into middle school years — you were encouraged to pay attention. The teacher would tell you to pay attention. Sometimes, boys and girls get involved in something happening in the classroom and they are not paying attention. You've got to concentrate to pay attention.

It's amazing how what they tried to teach us in elementary school and all through school and all through life and maybe even somebody that wants to tell you to work, pay attention, that it helps. It helps to focus your attention and thought processes on what is really important and not just sitting around daydreaming.

*A second help I would give you is this: Keep Thinking.* If you wonder what I mean by that, look for things that are new thoughts. Things that you don't normally think about. Maybe you've never thought about them. When you come across something like that, walk down that road a little further. It may have to do with life, finances, or government with Bible truths or eternal thoughts that never have come across your mind. Think about them. Spend some time meditating on it and let it refresh your mind with thoughts that you never have had before.

*A third help I would give you is... well, I can't remember what the third thought was but I know it was good.* Maybe in the days ahead if I can pull it back up, I will share it with you because it's probably the most important thing to help you remember. I really didn't have a third thing, but the one thing that I would keep your mind focused on is living for Jesus today. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

Follow Him. He will use and bless you and you will remember Him and in so doing what He wants you to do.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mcb.org](mailto:directions@mcb.org).

## OBITUARIES

**Kenneth Craig "Ken" Kirk**, 69, of Brookhaven, longtime Mississippi Baptist pastor, died August 11 at his residence. He was born on May 29, 1949, to the late Curtis Kirk and Edith Woodrow Bennett Kirk. He was a pastor for many years, including Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven, where he was a member, and a chaplain for the past ten years at Kings Daughters Medical Center in Brookhaven. He is survived by his wife, Pam Kirk; sons, Kevin Kirk and Alden Kirk (Kecia); daughter, Olivia Morris; and four grandchildren. A memorial service was held Aug. 17 at Riverwood Family Funeral Services in Brookhaven.



KIRK

**Roy C. Wilson**, 78, longtime Mississippi Baptist minister, died at his home on August 20. He served at DeLay Church in Lafayette County, New Hope Church in Tate County, and for over 40 years at Bethel Church in Tate County. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Nell Wilson of Nesbit; children Carla Shaw (Charlie) of Nesbit, Paul Dwight Wilson (Cindy) of Southaven, and Maria

Namore (Rodney) of Southaven; sister Opal Newman of Paris; brother Gene Wilson of Tula; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by brother James Wilson. Funeral service was held Aug. 23 at Hernando Funeral Home in Hernando, with interment at Oxford Memorial Cemetery in Oxford.

**John Royce Hudson**, 87, longtime Mississippi Baptist pastor, died August 6 at his home in Woodland. He was born May 30, 1931, in Pheba to the late John Hollis Hudson and Effie Bell Steele Hudson. He is survived by his wife Marion Mitchell Hudson of Woodland; daughters Linda Maupin (Raymon) of Starkville, Becky Hill (Tony) of Cedar Bluff, Sheila Kenfield of Woodland and Mary Jackson (Andrew) of Roxie; sons Danny Hudson (Anna) of Blairsville, Ga., Tim Hudson (Tish) of Starkville, Matt Hudson (Lisa) of Fulton, and David Hudson (Talitha) of Woodland; daughter-in-law Gail Hudson of Monticello; twenty-two grandchildren, nineteen great grandchildren; sisters Hilda Jane Hancock and Doyce Faye Anderson both of Campt, La.; and

brother, Steele Hudson of Tillar, Ar. He was preceded in death by his parents; son Randy Hudson; brothers Paul Hudson and Don Hudson; and his first wife, Polly Nash Hudson. Funeral service was August 9 at First Church, Woodland, with burial in Woodland Cemetery. Memorial Funeral Home of Houston was in charge of arrangements.

**Bernie Otis Parker**, longtime Mississippi Baptist minister of music, died Aug. 18 at Marion General Hospital in Columbia. Born in Perry County, Parker served in church ministry for 54 years. During that span he served five different churches in Mississippi and Alabama, including 29 years at First Church, Columbia. He was preceded in death by his father, Clarence Parker; mother, Irene Few; step-father, Frank Few; and brothers, Ernest "Bud" Parker and Frank Few. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Marilyn Parker of Columbia; daughter Lori Shuck (Brad) of Sumrall; son Bryan Otis Parker (Leigh Anne) of Memphis; brother Patrick Few, Murfreesboro, Tn.; sister Donna Thompson of Foxworth; and five grandchildren. Funeral service was held Aug. 23 at First Church, Co-

lumbia, with interment in Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia. Family and friends may sign an online guestbook at [hathornfuneralhome.com](http://hathornfuneralhome.com). Hathorn Funeral Home in Columbia is in charge of the arrangements.

**John Thomas Tedder**, 53, longtime Mississippi Baptist pastor, died Sept. 12. Born August 22, 1965 in Vardaman, he was the son of James Thomas and Linda Tedder. He was a 1983 graduate of Grenada High School, and a 2009 graduate of New Orleans Seminary with a bachelor of divinity degree. Funeral service was held September 16 at Pryor Funeral Home in Calhoun City, with interment in Midway Cemetery in Vardaman. Tedder is survived by his wife of almost 28 years, Rebecca "Nina" Tedder; daughters Jamie Nicole Tedder of Grenada and Melanie Miller (David, Sr.) of Georgetown; parents James Thomas and Linda Tedder of Grenada; and three grandchildren. Expressions of sympathy may be left for the family at [pryorfuneralhome.com](http://pryorfuneralhome.com).



TEDDER



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 27, 2018

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

MINISTRY WIVES  
CONFERENCE

YOUR HOME  
A PLACE OF  
MINISTRY

OCTOBER 29, 2018  
FBC JACKSON 5<sup>TH</sup> LEVEL

REGISTRATION:  
[www.tinyurl.com/2018MWC](http://www.tinyurl.com/2018MWC)

Contact the Pastor/Leadership Development  
Department at [vclary@mbcb.org](mailto:vclary@mbcb.org) for more  
information.

2018 YOUTH EVANGELISM CHALLENGE

NOW IS THE TIME

DECEMBER 27-28, 2018 • MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE



JASON CURRY  
Speaker



BROKEN VESSELS  
Music



TEDDY DIBIASE  
Speaker

Preregister at [tinyurl.com/2018YEC](http://tinyurl.com/2018YEC) (\$10) or at the door (\$15).  
Contact the Evangelism Dept. at [lburris@mbcb.org](mailto:lburris@mbcb.org) for additional info.

MARGARET LACKEY OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS

MISSISSIPPI

ISAIAH 6:9A

Tell this People

## VALUES OF THE MARGARET LACKEY STATE MISSIONS OFFERING

- Sharpens our focus on mission needs in Mississippi, and trains leaders to respond evangelistically.
- Adds valuable funding to mission networks and leaders who are prepared to work in Mississippi.
- Encourages churches to become more involved in calling and sending Mississippi missionaries.
- Enlarges our witness in Mississippi by adding new churches. Two million of our neighbors are not actively participating in church.

2018 GOAL: \$2,100,000

Contact Mission Strategy at 601-292-3231 or e-mail  
[bbridges@mbcb.org](mailto:bbridges@mbcb.org) for more information.

## 183rd MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

October 30-31, 2018 | FBC Jackson

# God's Call on your Life!

Called to work  
to the ends of the earth

Worshipping

Praying

Fasting

Sharing

Contact Executive Administration at [info@mbch.org](mailto:info@mbch.org) or call 601-292-3201  
for more information.

## 2018 COLLEGE STUDENT CONFERENCE



Seek first His kingdom...  
Matthew 6:33

# PASSIONATE Pursuit

SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2018  
RIDGECREST BAPTIST CHURCH  
MADISON, MS

For more information, contact Greg Barker at 601-292-3307  
or [mbch.org](http://mbch.org) or email [info@mbch.org](mailto:info@mbch.org)

## Merry Christmas

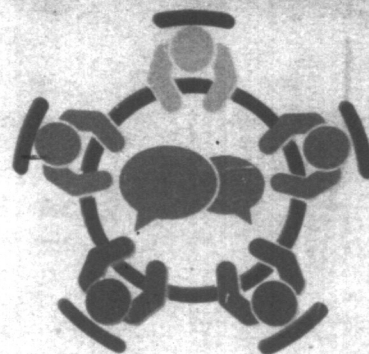
From Mississippi Baptists to  
Pastors of the Baptist Convention  
of Michigan

For 55 years, Mississippi Baptists have  
enjoyed sending new suits to pastors in  
new work areas. Many of these pastors  
have no suit and have extra money to  
purchase one. Since 2001, Mississippi  
Baptists have also been able to send  
more than 2,600 gift cards to pastors'  
wives.

This year, each suit will cost \$175. As  
in previous years, this ministry is made  
possible by your generous year-round  
donations of any amount. Checks  
should be made payable to MBOB and  
registered for The Gift Card Fund.

For more information, contact Greg Barker  
at 601-292-3307 or [mbch.org](http://mbch.org)

## PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



## Bivocational Ministries Meeting

Monday, October 29, 2018

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Skyroom | Baptist Building

Contact Greg Barker at 601-292-3307 for more information.

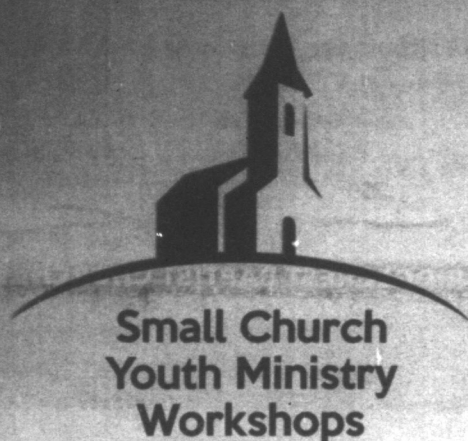


# Transparency

Complying with God's Directives

## 2018 CHURCH-WIDE STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

For more information, contact the Stewardship/Cooperative Program Department at [leavell@mbcb.org](mailto:leavell@mbcb.org) or call 601-292-3347.



6:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.  
Supper is served at 6:00 p.m.

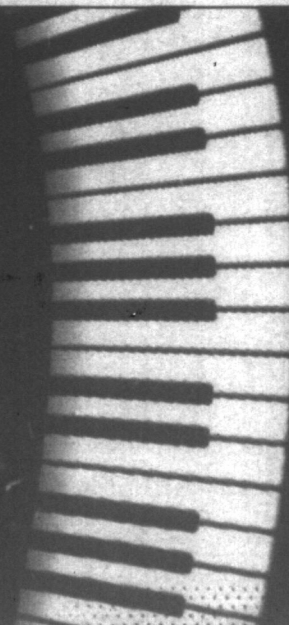
10.25.18 | Forest Baptist Church  
439 E. 1st St. | Forest, MS 39074

11.6.18 | First Baptist Church  
520 W. Fox Ave. | Eupora, MS 39744

11.8.18 | Hillcrest Baptist Church  
5950 Terry Rd. | Byram, MS 39272

Contact Discipleship & Family Ministry at  
[tpresson@mbcb.org](mailto:tpresson@mbcb.org) for more info.  
To register, visit  
[www.tinyurl.com/2018SmallChurch](http://www.tinyurl.com/2018SmallChurch).

## 2019 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST AREA & STATE KEYBOARD FESTIVALS



JANUARY 24, 2019 | 6:30-8:30 P.M.

Area 2	Harrisburg BC, Tupelo
Area 2	FBC, West Point
Area 3	FBC, Jackson
Area 4	Fifteenth Avenue BC, Meridian
Area 5	Main Street BC, Hattiesburg
Area 5	FBC, Summit
Area 5	FBC, Pascagoula
Area 5	FBC, Laurel

JANUARY 25, 2019 | 6:30-8:30 P.M.

Area 1	FBC, Senatobia
--------	----------------

JANUARY 26, 2019 | 9:30 A.M.-NOON

Area 1	Emmanuel BC, Grenada
Area 1	North Greenwood BC, Greenwood

Contact the Church Music Department at 601-292-3272 or  
email Wyndy South at [wsouth@mbcb.org](mailto:wsouth@mbcb.org) for more info.



## Mother/Daughter Weekends

### Living W.I.L.D. Walking In Love Daily at Garaywa



**November 2-3, 2018**

Deadline to Register is October 17



**November 9-10, 2018**

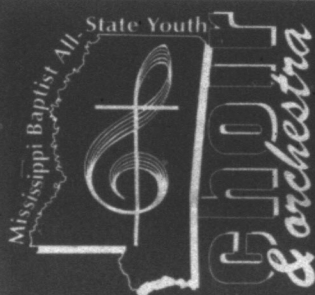
Deadline to Register is October 24

Mother/Daughter Overnights are for moms  
(and mom substitutes) and their daughters in Grades 1-6.

Schedule: 5:00 p.m. on Friday until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday

Cost: \$55 per person

For more information, contact the WMU/WM at [tbaldwin@mbcb.org](mailto:tbaldwin@mbcb.org)  
or call 601-292-3317.



### 2018 Auditions for the 2019 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir & Orchestra

Open to 9th-12th Graders involved  
in the music ministry of Mississippi  
Southern Baptist Churches

REGISTER 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO  
THE AUDITION!

OCTOBER 13, 2018

1:30-4:00 p.m.

Belden Baptist Church  
Belden

OCTOBER 14, 2017

1:30-4:00 p.m.

Belden Baptist Church  
Belden

OCTOBER 20, 2018

1:00-4:00 p.m.

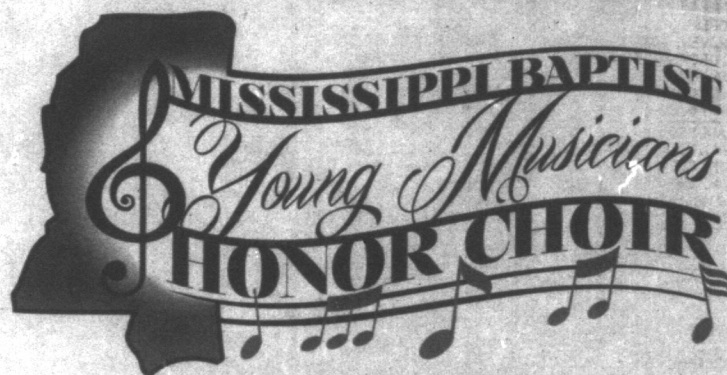
Baptist Building  
Jackson

OCTOBER 21, 2018

2:00-5:00 p.m.

Baptist Building  
Jackson

Contact Church Music at [cwtaylor@mbcb.org](mailto:cwtaylor@mbcb.org) or  
call 601-292-3267 for more information.



**April 6-7, 2019**

### EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH GRENADA

VIDEO Auditions are being accepted for the 2019  
Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir for  
children in grades 4-6.

Videos should be submitted by e-mail or text.  
Deadline for submissions is November 15, 2018.

Contact Church Music at 601-292-3272 or Wyndy South at  
[wsouth@mbcb.org](mailto:wsouth@mbcb.org) for additional information.

# Refresh

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STUDENT MINISTERS' FALL RETREAT

**October 8-11, 2018**

Hilton Garden Inn • Orange Beach, AL

Retreat begins on Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
and ends Thursday morning at breakfast.



**CHIP STEVENS**

First Baptist Church, Starkville  
Speaker



**CORY CARR**

Community Church, Oxford  
Worship Leader

Registration: [www.mbc.org/student-ministers-retreat/](http://www.mbc.org/student-ministers-retreat/)

Contact Discipleship/Family Ministry at [redwards@mbcb.org](mailto:redwards@mbcb.org)  
for more information.

# HOUSE TOPS



## MS POSITIONS

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A  
PIANIST, ORGANIST, PAY BASED ON EXP.  
AND QUALIFICATIONS. Send resumes to  
cmaddox@mymacbc.org Or mail to 1230  
Macedonia Rd., Brookhaven, MS 39601.

**THE LAUDERDALE BAPTIST ASSO-**  
CIATION IS ACCEPTING RESUMES NOW  
THROUGH OCTOBER 12 FOR ASSO-  
CIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR. Ones  
interested may mail resume to P.O. Box 549,  
Marion, MS 39342.

**SMITHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH IS**  
PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A FULL TIME  
YOUTH MINISTER. Resumes can be sent to:  
Smithville Baptist Church, PO Box 52, Smith-  
ville, MS 38670. Or sbc@traceroad.net

**PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH IN**  
CARROLL COUNTY, MS IS LOOKING FOR  
A BI-VOCATION OR FULL TIME PASTOR.  
Send resumes to P.O. Box 179, Carrollton,  
MS 38917 or email to providencebaptist-  
churchcarroll@gmail.com

**ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH, BRANDON,**  
MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME STUDENT  
MINISTER. Interested candidates can e-mail  
their resumes to antiochbrandon@gmail.  
com, or send them to Antioch Baptist Church,  
2350 Hwy 43 South, Brandon, MS 39042.  
Attn: Student Minister Search Committee. A  
position description is available upon request.

**WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH,**  
VICKSBURG, MS, SEEKING A PART  
TIME YOUTH PASTOR. Email resume to  
arutland@woodlawnbc.com.

**SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR -**  
BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH. Located at  
Meridian, MS in the Whynt community of  
Southern Lauderdale County. Please email  
resume to office@whyntbethany.org or  
mail to Bethany Baptist Church, 4475 Pond's  
Road, Meridian, MS 39301.

**FBC COLDWATER IS LOOKING FOR A**  
FULL TIME PIANIST. Please send resume  
to FBC P.O. Box 347 Coldwater, MS 38618  
attention James Overton.

**MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED@NEW**  
HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, MONTICELLO,  
MS. BI-VOCATIONAL/PART TIME JOB.  
Sundays Only. If interested contact Office  
@601-587-2660 or send resume to 618 Car-  
mel New Hope Rd., Monticello, MS 39654 or  
email: nhbc@wb4me.com. College students  
welcome to apply. References required.

**MEADOWVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH OF**  
STARKVILLE IS SEARCHING FOR A  
BI-VOCATIONAL COLLEGE MINISTER.  
Minimum requirements are two years of col-  
lege education and two years of experience in  
ministry. Please submit your resume or ques-  
tions to mbcstarkvillecollegeminister@gmail.com.

**IMMANUEL BAPTIST OF VICKSBURG**  
IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE  
PASTOR/YOUTH MINISTER. Please email  
resumes to mbullf2@yahoo.com or mail to  
IBC Personnel Committee at 6949 Hwy 61  
South, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

**NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH,**  
OLIVE BRANCH, MS IS SEEKING A BI-  
VOCATIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR. Please  
email resume to rcurtis@newprospect.net.

**THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR**  
CLARKSON BAPTIST CHURCH IS AC-  
CEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME  
PASTOR. God will provide us His choice. If  
you feel God is leading you to CBC, please  
submit a resume prior to October 1 to Clark-  
son Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee,  
5400 Old Hwy 50, Mathiston, MS 39752.

**UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, MOSELLE, MS IS**  
ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME  
PASTOR. Please mail resumes to Unity Ba-  
ptist Church, P.O. Box 156, Moselle, MS 39459.  
Or you may email them to ubc.resumes@  
yahoo.com. Either should be designated as  
Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RUN-**  
NELSTOWN IS SEARCHING FOR A  
BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC.  
All interested candidates please email your  
resume to pastor@fbcrunnelstown.com or  
mail to 9211 Highway 42, Petal, MS 39465.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FOLEY,**  
ALABAMA IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME  
PASTOR. Please send resumes to Sharon  
Collins at scollins@fbcfoley.com or P.O. Box  
307 Foley, AL 36536.

**BLACK BABY GRAND GULBRANSEN**  
PIANO FOR SALE. \$1500. Call 601-956-  
3395.

**GET THE BEST RATES ON:** Health  
Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call  
1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsur-  
anceOnline.com.

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Contact: 832-922-0401 or Email: pdw4780@  
att.net for information and booking.

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windows, restoration and repairs, safety and  
insulated glass, custom aluminum and wood  
frames. Statewide 601-502-0202, www.  
hopperglass.net.

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Family Owners, lowest prices on the  
Beach, www.gulfshorescondos.com, 251-  
656-4935, 205-556-0368, 251-752-2366.

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and storm windows built to fit your opening.  
Plus new window screens and rescreen old  
screens. Call Tom Cook 601-709-4879.

**CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE**  
ESTIMATES: Davis Upholstery, Quitman,  
Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

**WWW.SEBRENHOMEIMPROVEMENT.**  
COM. Christian owned Don & Rita Sebrén.  
601-992-2092. All home improvements,  
siding, energy efficient windows, metal &  
shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio  
covers, decks, room additions, kitchen &  
bath upgrades.

**PULPIT SUPPLY AVAILABLE:** Retired  
Southern Baptist Navy chaplain available for  
Sunday pulpit supply on short notice (pastor  
illness, vacation, rest, etc.). 100 mile radius  
of Hattiesburg. Deacon of Hardy Street  
Baptist Church, Graduate of New Orleans  
Baptist and Fuller Theological Seminar-  
ies. References available. Compensation  
unimportant. Contact him at 601-408-4608  
or bennyhornsby.com

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info@msaudiollc.com Clinton, MS 39060 Fax 601-924-2880

## College News



Tra'Shawn Standifer, a senior Christian ministry major from Smithville, and Britt Bass, a senior Christian ministry major from Tippah County at **BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE**, were recently awarded scholarships from the Mississippi Baptist Foundation through the Board of Ministerial Education. Standifer received the Therman V. Bryant Memorial Scholarship and Bass received the William Washburn Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are Ronald Meeks, Barbara McMillin, Britt Bass, Tra'Shawn Standifer, Tim Mims, and Jim Futral.



Seventeen students and faculty from **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY'S** Department of Christian Ministries joined others from the Jackson area Sept. 10-14 to help a new church in Gillette, Wyo. Students and chaperones distributed more than 5,000 door hangers advertising the new church, conducted door-to-door surveys to assess community needs and shared the gospel with the people they met. WCU student Mack McElveen, who went on the trip, said: "Eight people prayed to receive Christ. God is working through the students at William Carey to reach the world."

### In other College News:

► **Blue Mountain College** has announced its intention to field an inaugural women's volleyball team for the 2019-2020 season. The flourishing NAIA Christian institution has made the call that coincides with its continued effort in the GROW BMC strategy that began two years ago. The move will place the program inside a strong Southern States Athletic Conference where all of its major NAIA varsity teams already compete. In addition, the college announced tentative plans to add a men's soccer team for the 2020-21 season, also to compete inside the SSAC.

## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Academy Church, Blue Mountain:** 176th homecoming, Sept. 30; service, 10:30 a.m. followed by potluck lunch; Titus Tyre, speaker.  
► **Holly Church, Alcorn:** Homecoming, Sept. 30; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Chester Wayne Harrison, speaker; Thomas Magers, II, pastor.  
► **Wheeler Church, East Pleasant Ridge Church, and Oak Hill Church, Prentiss Association:** Revival and concert, Sept. 30 - Oct. 3; Wheeler, Sunday, 6 p.m.; East Pleasant Ridge, Monday, 7 p.m.; Oak Hill, Tuesday and Wednesday, 7 p.m.; The Erwins, music.  
► **Mt. Carmel Church, Smith County:** Homecoming, Sept. 30; service, 11 a.m. followed by potluck dinner and cemetery meet-

## Staff Changes



**LUCIEN CHURCH, FRANKLIN COUNTY ASSOCIATION**, has called Robert E. Mack as pastor. He is shown with his wife Barbara. He has served churches in central and south Mississippi and is a 1980 graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

## N.C.

cont. from p. 1

McGivney noted the combined feeding effort by Southern Baptists — churches, associations, state conventions, and the North American Mission Board — has resulted in over 164,000 meals produced since the hurricane passed through.

Southern Baptists prepare the hot meals, which are then distributed by relief organizations such as American Red Cross utilizing their extensive fleet of dedicated emergency response vehicles. McGivney said in addition to those meal deliveries, six churches in the Bolivia area are serving as distribution points and there is a walk-up line at the cooking station.

"We thank the people of Mt. Olive Church, who are feeding us breakfast every morning from their church's kitchen while we prepare for mass feeding just outside their doors for the other two daily meals," McGivney said.

There are also Mississippi Baptist "mud-out" units on the scene, consisting of trained vol-

"We thank the people of Mt. Olive Church, who are feeding us breakfast every morning from their church's kitchen while we prepare for mass feeding just outside their doors for the other two daily meals."

**Shane McGivney**

**director of men's ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**

unteers who can quickly strip homes of flood-damaged materials like carpet and wallboard so repairs can begin immediately. Mississippi Baptist chainsaw and debris removal teams are there, too, with more on the way, McGivney reported.

The mud-out and chainsaw/debris removal volunteers may shift to South Carolina in the next few days, where the need for those specialties is tremendous, he noted.

McGivney said while qualified volunteers are going to be

needed for many months to come, funding the response is also a primary concern.

"In-kind gifts of clothing and household items are not as important right now as cash gifts that can be used for food, disinfectants and other cleaning supplies, and emergency items when and where the need arises," he said.

At the present time, McGivney pointed out, there is no logistics system available to Mississippi Baptists to collect and transport in-kind gifts. "For those reasons, we currently cannot accept in-kind gifts."

To provide a tax-deductible cash donation, make check payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and designate "Disaster Relief" on the memo line. Mail check to MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. For more information, visit [tinyurl.com/florencehelp](http://tinyurl.com/florencehelp).

To inquire about becoming a Mississippi Baptist disaster relief volunteer, contact the local Baptist associational missions director or MBCB Men's Ministry Department at the above post office box or via e-mail at [dvail@mccb.org](mailto:dvail@mccb.org).

## MEADOR

cont. from p. 1

2018. In his 42 years of service with IMB, Meador has worked closely with three of the entity's presidents as an adviser and as executive vice president.

He previously served as IMB's interim president from August 2010 to March 2011.

Meador and his wife Elaine were appointed as missionaries to Indonesia in 1974. Their service included leadership in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Central Asia before joining IMB's leadership team in Richmond in 2001.

"Clyde's walk with the Lord, humility, wisdom, broad expe-

rience and steady leadership will prove valuable during the time of transition," said IMB trustee chairman Rick Dunbar, a physician and member of First Church, Madison.

Platt has been IMB president since Aug. 27, 2014. Beginning in September of last year, he has served as pastor/teacher of McLean Bible Church in metro Washington, D.C.

On Feb. 12 of this year, Platt asked IMB trustees to begin searching for his successor as he felt a strong call to return to pastoring.

IMB trustees will meet Sept. 26-27 in Richmond, Va. A Sending Celebration to honor the newest Southern Baptist international missionaries was host-

ed Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. at Grove Avenue Church in Richmond.

Among the missionaries to be commissioned who have Mississippi Baptist ties are:

■ Edward and Kathleen Hill. Sending church: Northcrest Church, Meridian. Affinity: Sub-Saharan African peoples.

■ Heidi Toledo (not her real name). Sending church not identified. Affinity: Southeast Asian peoples.

■ Matt and Jayna Seidel (not their real names). Affinity: Central Asian peoples.

The identities and exact locations of service are not revealed for IMB personnel who may be living in areas where heightened security is in place.

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mccb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mccb.org).

## B i B L i O C i P H E R

MZE SW EJZHZCLHZ CZUH, MZWE,

U RHLINWZ YZNAP MZCE SW LC

ZAEZHNAP NAEL JNW HZWE, UAO LC

OLS WJLSMX WZZI EL VLIZ WJLHE LC

NE.

JZYHZDW CLSH:LAZ

Clue: U = A

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John 10:10

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)  
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## True Freedom • Galatians 4:8-20

Paul spent half of his epistle to the churches of Galatia clearly stating the gospel and exposing the heresy of the Judaizers. He also confronted believers who had chosen to fall back into the bondage of the law. As we move further into the fourth chapter, we will get a glimpse of how much Paul loved them and how desperately Paul wanted his audience, the Christians, to understand that God's incredible gift of grace comes by faith alone. In this article we will focus on the Galatian problem, Paul's plea, and our passionate response.

**The Problem (Galatians 4:8-11)**

Paul continued to express his concern that some who had established a relationship with God through faith in Jesus would consider returning to the beliefs and practices held prior to their salvation. Consider this! These folks had listened to and accepted Paul's teaching of the gospel. They had believed in Jesus and experienced everything His work on the cross has to offer through faith, and yet they still decided to return to the slavery of the law. That's unbelievable and impossible, right? Not so. Paul wrote, "But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worth-

less elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?" (v. 9). They chose to return to the slavery of the law much like the Hebrews told Moses they would rather go back into slavery in Egypt.

Now let me be clear. Paul did not teach that genuine believers could lose their salvation. He was telling them that they must safeguard against a gospel that becomes less than faith in Christ alone for salvation. People are no different today than the Hebrews of the Old Testament or the Galatians of the New Testament. They struggle to believe that salvation comes by faith alone and cannot be earned.

**The Plea (Galatians 4:12-14)**

So intent was Paul to turn the Galatians back to the gospel that he pleaded with them. He begged the Galatian believers to follow his example and to stop depending upon the law for salvation. He reminded them of their re-

sponse to the gospel when they first heard it. He also marveled at the fact that they had been willing to overlook Paul's physical illness as a result of the power in the message. Paul wrote, "...you know that it was because of a bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the first time; and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you

received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus Himself" (vv. 13-14). Their receptivity was truly remarkable because, in those days, illness was

viewed as a sign of spiritual judgment.

Consider your church family for just a moment. Are there folks on your church roll who have not darkened the doors in many years? Can you remember the excitement and joy each person exhibited when he/she accepted Christ? We can and must follow Paul's example and plead with other believers to remember the grace they found when they first heard the gospel.

**The Passion (Galatians 4:15-20)**

Paul contrasted his relationship with the Galatians to the relationship they now had with the false teachers, focusing on the motives of each. He emphasized that his genuine love for the Galatians prompted them to reciprocate that love, but that same love required him to tell them the truth. He asked, "Where then is that sense of blessing you had?", provoking them to remember the blessing and freedom they had previously experienced (v. 15a). The truth of the gospel may cause the pain of conviction; but failing to share the truth would be unloving. Paul passionately shared because he was passionate about his Savior.

Believers must passionately proclaim that true freedom is found only through faith in Christ. Do you have family, friends, coworkers, or church members who once followed Christ and enjoyed His presence in their lives? Are names coming to your mind as you read this? Please jot their names down. Pray that God will restore to them the joy of His salvation (Psalm 51:12). Then, as the Lord leads, passionately remind them of God's amazing grace.

McGraw is a NAMB-endorsed chaplain at Louisiana State Penitentiary and member of Woodville Church, Woodville.

**Explore the Bible**

with Liz McGraw

## Authentic Joy • 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Years ago, my wife and I visited her brother and his family in a big city in Texas. Sunday morning, her brother and I drove to the church he attended. On the freeway, just as we were about to exit, a car cut us off and the driver shook his fist out the window at us as he hurried by. We noticed that he turned into the same church where we were going. We saw him park his car and hurry inside, his distinctive white hair blowing in the wind. After we parked and entered the foyer, there was the man with the white hair and a big smile on his face as he said, "Welcome to our church!" He was a greeter. I said, "We would have felt more welcomed if you hadn't cut us off and shook your fist at us on the freeway." His smile suddenly escaped him. A plastic smile could not cover who he was underneath. I do not remember the sermon that day, though I cannot forget the message preached by the greeter.

1 Thessalonians 1:5-6 reads, "For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake, and ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much af-

fliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost," (KJV). God's joy filling a believer comes not from his role in the church, whether greeter or pastor, but from the indwelling of and service to Jesus. Authentic joy, not the kind shown by the disingenuous greeter, but the kind that leads people to Jesus comes from an authentic relationship with Him.

Jerusalem was filled to capacity during the Feast of Tabernacles. Jesus stood in the temple as the week-long feast ended. Everyone had eaten and drunk so much there was no room for more, yet John 7:37-38 reads, "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, 'If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.'" (KJV). No one listening was physically thirsty, but Jesus knew they longed for living water.

**Bible Studies for Life**

with Rick Henson

Like the woman at the well, people are dying of spiritual thirst and Jesus is their answer. Jesus told the woman in John 4:14, "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life," (KJV). The world leaves us all parched and dry for a touch from the Lord. Jesus desires to fill us to overflowing, spilling His spirit on those around us. When we fill ourselves with what the world offers, it

leaves us empty, but when we empty ourselves before the Lord, He fills us up, satisfying our longing souls. Jesus contrasted Himself with Satan in John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly," (KJV). Satan seeks to steal our joy, though Jesus desires to

fill us up. The original word translated "abundantly" is derived from a term for an artesian well. As the water emerges from underground, it overflows any wall built around it. That is the life Jesus plans for each of His children.

Years ago, as computers came of age, programmers invented the term GIGO, which means either Garbage In, Garbage Out, or Good In, Good Out. If you put garbage programming or good programming into a computer, that is what it will produce. Our lives are the same. If we fill our lives with worldliness, that is what will overflow from us to other people. People angry at heart spew hatred and bitterness in their words. Folks jaded from jealousy compare what they have with others and always feel a deficit in their lives. As Jesus taught in Matthew 12:35, "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things," (KJV).

God's plan is simple. He desires to save us and overflow in us, so others may also be saved. What overflows from you?

Henson is a member of Meadow Grove Church, Brandon.

**LIFEWAY**

cont. from p. 1

LifeWay staffers for their response. "Our employees were naturally shaken by the event, but many continued to work in the office while others ex-

ercised the flexibility to work off-site the rest of the day."

"I am always amazed at the resilience of our employees. We are certainly thankful for God's grace and protection."

According to the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department's incident report, a

LifeWay employee called police and said he heard a "loud pop" coming from outside the building.

"When he walked to the window he noticed a bullet hole in the window and the remains of that bullet resting on the ground beside a filing

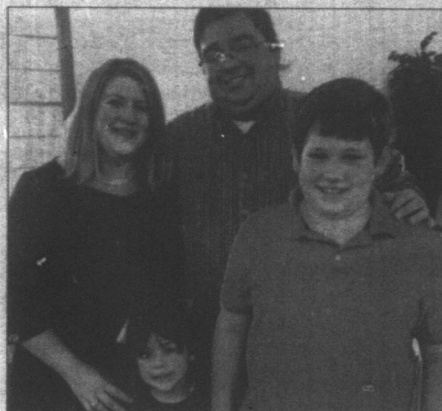
cabinet," the report said. "He stated that no one working in the office at this time was injured, nor did anyone see who was responsible for the damage."

No other areas of the building were damaged and no injuries were discovered, police

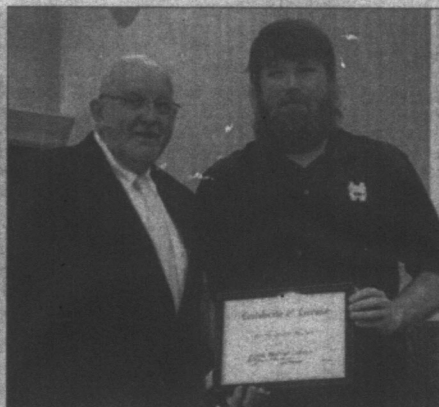
said. The remains of the bullet were collected as evidence.

No hate crime, terrorism, nor gang activity is suspected, police were quoted as saying. No suspect has been named. The large glass window had an estimated value of \$5,000.

## Just for the Record



**FIRST CHURCH, NEW AUGUSTA**, ordained Lanny Mixon as deacon Aug. 26, with a reception following the ceremony. Shown are Stephanie, Corli, Lanny, and Miles Mixon.



**ETHEL CHURCH, ETHEL**, licensed Brian Felton to preach Sept. 16. He has served as youth minister for almost six years. He will be going to Golden Central Church as pastor. Shown are pastor Ralph Hunt and Felton.



The children's choir of **NEWHEBRON CHURCH, NEWHEBRON**, presented a musical entitled Nailed It. Shown are the participants and their leaders.



**FIRST CHURCH, BEAUMONT**, broke ground for their new Family Life Center Sept. 9.



WOM members from **GRANDVIEW CHURCH, PEARL**, are shown with handbags collected and filled for Hands Up Outreach Ministry.

### In other Church News:

► **Pine Grove Church, Nettleton**, will host a 5th Sunday night singing Sept. 30, 5 p.m., featuring the Pontotoc Ridge Boys, followed by food and fellowship.

► **High Hill Church, Neshoba County**, will host a 5th Sunday night singing Sept. 30, featuring the Sons of Faith Quartet. Don Cook, pastor; Mike Barker, music director.



Children ages 4 - 6 and leaders from **FIRST CHURCH, WINONA**, enjoyed summer camp at Shocco Springs in Alabama.



**ORAL CHURCH, LAMAR ASSOCIATION**, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown, photo 1, is the youth team and pastor; photo 2, children's team.

## IS YOUR CHURCH...

BUILDING? RENOVATING? EXPANDING?

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